

# Christian Service Policy



## Purpose of the Program:

To provide for the kinds of powerful *interpersonal* experiences that can change the hearts of our students and teach them to readily see the dignity of every human person.

**Service Organizations:** To count towards the required minimum number of service hours, service activities must be completed at organizations listed on the SMHS website. To add a non-profit organization to the list, please contact the school administration. Agencies must already be listed on the SMHS website at the time the students do the service.

## Requirements:

Year in School	Total Number of Hours Required:	Number of A Hours must be at least:
Freshman	10	5
Sophomore	15	10
Junior	20	10
Senior	25	10

## Categories:

### **A Hours:** *"Gospel Mission Hours"*

- i. **Must involve direct human interaction with and service to those who are disabled, poor, elderly, or disadvantaged.**
- ii. May not include clerical work.
- iii. Must relate directly to one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.
- iv. **Requires prior approval by SMHS administration.**
- v. Must be completed with the organizations listed on the SMHS website.

### **B Hours:** *"Building Community Hours"*

- i. May involve any number of good works where students provide assistance and service to individuals or groups within our community.
- ii. Must be completed with the organizations listed in the Christian Service Manual.

## Documentation:

Students must provide letterhead documentation of their service hours from the organization where they completed their hours. For "A Hours" (see description below), students must also complete a pre-approval form and have it signed by the Christian Service Committee ahead of time. Hours done without "A-Hour" pre-approval automatically fall into the "B Hours" category.

## Special Items:

### **Freshmen**

Freshmen will complete their "A" hours through activities coordinated in their religion classes.

### **Seniors:**

During their senior year, students will focus at least half of their required hours with a specific service organization or in a specific area of service (elderly, homeless, disabled). From this experience, students will prepare their Senior Service Project, a research presentation which is intended to draw out and demonstrate the spiritual, social, and academic skills which are the hallmarks of a St. Michael graduate. Please consult the Senior Service Project Manual for details.

### Deadlines:

Hours done during the summer must be turned in by September 1. Half of the total hours required are due December 1<sup>nd</sup>. The remainder are due March 29. (For sophomores, who must do 15 hours, this means that they must complete 5 “B Hours” and 2.5 “A Hours.”)

### Consequences:

#### **Fall:**

- Students who have not met requirements by December 1<sup>nd</sup> will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter religion grade permanently lowered by up to one letter grade (1% each day the hours are turned in late, up to 8%).
- Students may not take the midterm exams of any of their classes until they have met the requirements.

#### **Spring:**

- Students who have not met requirements by March 29<sup>nd</sup> will have their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter religion grade permanently lowered by up to one letter grade (1% each day the hours are turned in late, up to 8%).
- Students may not take the final exams of any of their classes until they have met the requirements.

### Awards:

- Students who go over above and beyond the requirement for Christian Service receive awards to be recognized at the Christian Service Mass each Spring. The categories and requirements for these awards are:

**Bronze Award:** 10 Hours above minimum requirement

**Silver Award:** 25 Hours above the minimum requirement

**Gold Award:** 50 Hours above the minimum requirement